

Teachers Tell Students About Tragic Slaying

HARTFORD (AP) — Teachers in scores of city classrooms Friday stood before stunned and suddenly quiet children and told them, "Our President is dead."

Children filed from the buildings, subdued and sometimes crying.

They went past school yard flags lowered to half staff.

Particularly in the younger classes, in a number of schools, the solemn news was withheld. But the teachers all knew. They mastered their emotions and went on teaching until the release of the final bell.

Children throughout the Wish School on Barbour Street were invited by a notice circulated among their teachers to think silently of the Kennedy family and Gov. Connally and then to leave the school in orderly files, without speaking.

An assembly was in progress at the Naylor School, it was interrupted, and heads were bowed.

At New Park Avenue School, there was also an assembly. The two upper grades had come to see a film about the United Nations. They received the announcement and bowed their heads. Then the film, so fitting

to the occasion, was run through. It showed President Kennedy addressing the U.N. Pupils watched, some of them sobbing.

There was going to be an afternoon dance at the new Park Avenue, another at Kennelly, but they were cancelled along with after-school activities all through the city.

Principals were concerned to avoid hysteria and mass emotionalism. That is why they usually asked each teacher to deal with the President's death in her own way—according to the age of the children.

At the Kennelly School, one of the eighth grade classes was engaged in a creative writing assignment, and the teacher suggested that they try to express what the moment meant for them.

One student, Maria Kottas, 13, of 255 Grandview Ter., turned to poetry.

This is what she wrote:

O gracious God,
Help us to find in our hearts the
power to forgive
Those who have brought such
harm to our nation.
Help us to find the power to use
whatever wisdom our nation
possesses
To overcome the grief of our
President's untimely death.
Help us, O Lord, on this grief-
stricken day to pray for the soul
of John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Who on this day lost his life while
serving his and our country, the
United States of America.
Lastly, O Lord, bless him, men
like him, and America.